

## Specific Prayer Requests for Governmental Leaders

7/07

### Major Robinson:

If you would like to know more about Major Robinson so you can pray, please see the newspaper article about him: [http://www.helenair.com/articles/2007/06/25/helena/a01062507\\_01.txt](http://www.helenair.com/articles/2007/06/25/helena/a01062507_01.txt).

### Specific prayers for Sheriff Cheryl Liedle and her officers:

- Although Lewis and Clark County is still below the national norm for number of deputies needed per 5000 in population, since our county has had the fastest rate of growth of any county in Montana (the unincorporated area has grown 218%), her office is asking for more deputies. Pray for adequate funding and qualified personnel.
- Drug use has also increased with the growth of the population. Although meth use has evened out (perhaps due to the Montana Meth Project – see below), ecstasy and cocaine are making a come back. Pray that God would hinder the distribution and use of illegal drugs.
  - Montana has recently invested \$20M in meth treatment facilities.
  - Millions have also been invested in The Meth Project. On 6/27/07 The Meth Project became the recipient of the prestigious Bronze Lion Award at the 54th Annual Cannes International Advertising Festival in Cannes, France. The organization is credited with making tremendous strides in the struggle against Meth in Montana -- where the program was first launched -- with teen use of the drug decreasing 38% since the program's inception, and positive workplace testing falling by more than 70%.
  - Note: We recently had a young man in our home who quit meth and cocaine when he gave his life to Jesus. He became part of Teen Challenge. Years later he is still drug free – and dependent on Jesus.
- Recreational conflict has increased too – for example, disputes between people fishing and people jet skiing or motor boating.
- Sheriff Cheryl Liedle oversees a budget of \$8.2 M and a 54 bed jail that had been housing 100 inmates. The Sheriff's Department has taken steps to lower that so that now they are at or below capacity 90% of the time. Pray for wisdom in this process.
- She is asking the county for more satellite offices. With the growth of the population, response time is not what it used to be or should be – due to traffic. Her deputies are the first in Montana to have 911 from a cell phone connect with the Sheriff's office. They are also the first to have reverse 911 – in case of a fire, for example, in twelve minutes her office can call the land line of everyone in a particular area.

**Prayers for Lewis and Clark County Commissioners:** L&CC has a budget this year of \$61.75 million. New revenues from growth have brought in @ \$600K.

1. **Staffing:** There are between 430 and 450 staff who serve this county. With the growth of the county, a number of new positions are being added. For example, two new Sheriff's deputies will cost the county \$218K – including the cost of their vehicles and outfitting. Pray for wisdom in staffing and that quality people would apply.
2. **Infrastructure like roads and bridges:** Keep in mind that it costs between \$500K and \$1M to repair or surface a mile of road. There are @ 15,000 miles of roads in L&CC – and the bridges are also the county's responsibility. Although the Treasure State Endowment Fund (based on revenues from coal reserves) may grant matching gifts for such projects, the commissioners face a significant challenge in allocating funds and taking care of infrastructure.

3. **Water quality:** With over 8,000 known septic systems (many of which are decades old) and a significant number of unknown septic systems in the valley – and with pharmaceuticals leaching into the ground water which wells in the valley use, water quality is another significant challenge. The commissioners have hired a water quality scientist and have adopted interim emergency zoning regulations. Long term they plan to institute a licensing policy for septic systems. Pray that such policies will ensure healthy water quality.

**Governor Schweitzer's report:**

As you pray for Montana, it may help you to know:

1. Montana's legislature meets every other year – on the odd year - for 90 days. This 2007 legislature passed some major initiatives but they did not add taxes or authorize new bonds. They also set aside money in a rainy day fund. Thank God.
2. Montana currently has the lowest unemployment in the nation (not including Native Americans – apparently, they are included in some reports and not in others – depending upon what “spin” the speaker intends).
3. The tax structure is friendly to business – it is rated between 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation according to various studies.
4. Last year Montana surpassed the 10M mark in tourists. Nearly 3M visit Glacier and 3M visit Yellowstone. We need to develop other destinations. Pray that Helena will be one of those destinations.
5. Clean and green power is being promoted by new legislation.
  - a. With \$240B of US money being spent overseas to satisfy our energy demands (65% of our energy is imported), America needs to develop other energy resources or keep sending our troops to the Mid-East.
  - b. In terms of coal resources:
    - i. the US ranks #1, Russia #2, and China #3.
    - ii. 50% of our electricity in the US comes from coal powered plants.
    - iii. Montana has 33% of the US coal and 8% of the world's supply.
  - c. If safe technology for extracting those resources can be developed, then Montana as a whole would profit – especially needy eastern Montana. Pray for God's direction.
  - d. A company that is new to Montana just invested \$500M in wind power. Thank God.

I have attended two events recently which the Governor also attended.

1. 11 AM, 6/28, Josh and I were at the dedication of the new Friendship Center – a \$2.5M home that can care for victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence. The Governor's wife had helped extensively with this remarkable project. He spoke.
2. 7 PM, 6/21, an exhibit at the capitol opened that displayed pictures of Sudan. Governor Schweitzer was on hand to speak. He had lived in the Middle East at one time and is familiar with the great challenges faced by Sudan. I went to the exhibit with Greg Lemon, a long time friend of our family – Greg is one of the reasons why we are in Montana. Greg is also a journalist who has been commissioned to write a biography of Governor Schweitzer. The deadline for completion of the biography has been moved up to July 31. Pray that Greg may complete the biography - speaking the truth in love. As Greg and I were viewing the Sudan exhibit, the Governor came over and asked who was accompanying his biographer. Greg introduced us – and I thanked the Governor for his presentation earlier that morning. So, we talked for a few minutes about Montana and its leadership.